

will awake to the fact that they had a good, long, complacent, pipe dream. Their contention that it is not possible to determine which ads are ethical and which are not, is simply absurd, puerile and idiotic. Let them answer these simple questions: Is it a medicine? Is the composition of this stuff known to the doctor who is asked to prescribe or use it? Are the advertising statements made within the truth? Is it advertised to the laity? In answering the second question it is not simply necessary that the composition shall be known to the editor, or the trustees, or the manufacturer, or to some other irresponsible person or persons; does the doctor who prescribes the stuff know exactly what his patient is going to take? Face-tious! Heaven save the mark!

It is time that every physician in the State took heed for the future. The State legislative body will assemble to tinker and tamper with the laws, before many months have passed, and it now seems absolutely certain that an attempt will be made to so modify the Medical Practice Act as to completely emasculate it. It is rumored that the eddyites have joined forces with some illegal practitioners and some disgruntled ones, and have provided and are providing a not inconsiderable fund for the purpose of attempting to upset the law. Let every physician in the State calmly consider the murders that would ensue were the doors thrown open to everyone, practically, who wanted to practice medicine, to do so. There are enough unfortunate mistakes made by those who have licenses, without piling up the legalized murders of a host of incompetents by throwing down or in any way relaxing the provisions of the law. Before he is elected is the time to find out just how your representative stands on the question of the Medical Practice Act, and there is no great amount of time to waste. Election day is coming on apace, and before we know it the tinkers will be busy. We have no large fund of money at our disposal, but we have an endless amount of energy; now is a pretty good time to use some of it, and in the direction indicated.

There are some individual members of the medical profession—and they are generally located far from big cities—who, by their courage, put to shame the do-nothing county medical societies, when it comes to warring on the illegal gentry. Two instances of the sort have come to the attention of the JOURNAL since the last issue. In Mendocino County, Dr. L. C. Gregory swore out a warrant for a "Dr." Diddle, worked hard to get the evidence to present, stirred up the district attorney to the point of action, kept at the thing until the case came to trial, and then saw all his work go to nought because of the friendship of a few jurymen for the accused. Several of the witnesses perjured themselves in the course of

the trial. It is a shame that county societies as such will not do their plain duty. The work would not be hard if they would only get at it. But it is so much easier to sit still and do nothing. The other instance occurred in Groveland, where Dr. W. H. Roberts went to a great deal of trouble and spent a good deal of time working up evidence against a notorious illegal practitioner, one Peshace. We do not know whether this trial has yet come off, nor the result. Certainly Drs. Gregory and Roberts are to be congratulated for their work and for what they have done to help clean up California. Please, gentlemen, do not grow discouraged; keep at the good work and in time you will shame others into giving you a helping hand.

One feature in the case of Diddle, the quack, is of especial interest. We are advised that within two weeks from the date of his trial, the jury disagreeing, two agents of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, of San Francisco, California, stated that this same Diddle had made several examinations for them for their company, *after the trial*. Now, they knew the man was an illegal practitioner; they had every reason to believe that he did not possess sufficient medical education to pass the state examinations, or he would have done so. They are guilty of carelessness and negligence—or worse—in having a presumably incompetent man examine a prospective risk of the company for which they are working. And furthermore, not only these agents, but the company that permitted them to allow such a quack to examine and report upon applicants for insurance, deliberately gave an insult to the reputable, licensed physicians of California. There is not the slightest reason or excuse for an insurance company allowing unlicensed "physicians"—quacks—to examine their clients; there are plenty of good doctors who have licenses, to do the work and do it well. Least of all should a California company ignore the laws of California by giving encouragement to its violators. We could make but one suggestion; let the "quacks" make all the examinations for those companies that pay less than \$5.00—refuse to make an examination yourself for less, and then the companies will surely get all that is coming to them.

The new Register and Directory is now on the press and ought to be issued during the first week in October. We shall do all we can to get it delivered as soon as possible, and the plan of last year will be followed. A number of copies corresponding to the number of members enrolled in each county society will be sent to the secretary of such society, who in turn will distribute them to the members. If you do not receive your Register by the 1st of November, write to your county society secretary and ask